

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously presented) A locking mechanism, comprising:

at least one latching member comprising first and second surfaces;

at least one spring loaded locking member adapted to securely engage said at least one latching member at one end when said at least one latching member is fully inserted in at least one spacing provided at said one end, said at least one latching member forcing said at least one spring loaded locking member to move against its spring bias when said at least one latching member is being inserted in said at least one spacing, said at least one spring loaded locking member having moved under its spring bias when said at least one latching member is fully inserted in said at least one spacing;

means for moving said at least one spring loaded locking member against its spring bias to allow said at least one fully inserted latching member to disengage from said at least one spring loaded locking member;

a first locking leg formed on the at least one spring loaded locking member for engaging the first surface of the latching member; and

a second locking leg formed on the at least one spring loaded locking member for contacting the second surface of the at least one spring loaded locking member, wherein when the at least one spring loaded locking member is moved against its spring bias, the second locking leg pushes the second surface of the at least one latching member to disengage the at least one latching member from the at least one spring loaded locking member.

2. (Original) The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein said moving means includes at least one groove adapted to guide the movement of said at least one spring loaded locking member and at least one knob extending integrally from said at least one spring loaded locking member to which an external force may be applied to move said at least one spring loaded locking member against its spring bias.

3. (Original) The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein said moving means includes at least one groove adapted to guide the movement of said at least one spring loaded locking member and at least one rack and pinion mechanism operatively coupled to said at least one guiding groove and used to move said at least one spring loaded locking member against its spring bias.

4. (Original) The locking mechanism of claim 1, wherein said at least one latching member and said at least one spring loaded locking member are used to removably lock a battery cover to the main body of a mobile telephone set.

5. (Original) The locking mechanism of claim 2, wherein said at least one latching member and said at least one spring loaded locking member are used to removably lock a battery cover to the main body of a mobile telephone set.

6. (Original) The locking mechanism of claim 3, wherein said at least one latching member and said at least one spring loaded locking member are used to removably lock a battery cover to the main body of a mobile telephone set.

7. (Previously presented) The locking mechanism of claim 2, wherein the first and second locking legs adapted are to form said at least one spacing.

8. (Previously presented) The locking mechanism of claim 3, wherein the first and second locking legs are adapted to form said at least one spacing.

9. (Previously presented) The locking mechanism of claim 7, wherein said first locking leg includes a first surface adapted to engage the first surface on said at least one latching member.

10. (Previously presented) The locking mechanism of claim 8, wherein said first locking leg includes a first surface adapted to engage the first surface on said at least one latching member.

11. (Previously presented) The locking mechanism of claim 9, wherein said second locking leg includes a first surface adapted to match a curvature of the second surface on said at least one latching member.

12. (Previously presented) The locking mechanism of claim 10, wherein said second locking leg includes a first surface adapted to match a curvature of the second surface on said at least one latching member.

13. (Original) The locking mechanism of claim 11, wherein said second surface of said at least one latching member is adapted to allow said at least one latching member smooth entry into said at least one spacing.

14. (Original) The locking mechanism of claim 13, wherein said second surface of said at least one latching member pushes against said first surface of said second locking leg when said at least one latching member is being inserted in said at least one spacing.

15. (Original) The locking mechanism of claim 12, wherein said second surface of said at least one latching member is adapted to allow said at least one latching member smooth entry into said at least one spacing.

16. (Original) The locking mechanism of claim 15, wherein said second surface of said at least one latching member pushes against said first surface of said second locking leg when said at least one latching member is being inserted in said at least one spacing.

17. (Original) The locking mechanism of claim 14, wherein said second locking leg pushes said at least one latching member out of said at least one spacing when said at least one fully inserted latching member is being released from the grip of said first and second locking legs.

18. (Original) The locking mechanism of claim 16, wherein said second locking leg pushes said at least one latching member out of said at least one spacing when said at least

one fully inserted latching member is being released from the grip of said first and second locking legs.

19. (Original) The locking mechanism of claim 3, wherein said moving means further includes at least one connection link integrally extending from said at least one locking member, and at least one knob protruding from said at least one connection link to which an external force is applied to move said at least one spring loaded locking member against its spring bias.

20-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) A mobile communication terminal, comprising:

a terminal body;

a battery cover detachably mounted at the terminal body and to which a battery is mounted; and

a locking mechanism formed between the terminal body and the battery cover for locking the battery cover to the terminal body, in which the locking mechanism comprises:

~~a latching member formed at the battery cover; and~~

~~a locking member movably mounted at a body and having a first locking leg for locking the latching member and a second locking leg,~~

~~wherein the second locking leg pushes the battery cover in an unlocking direction when the locking member is operated in an unlocking direction.~~

at least one latching member formed at the battery cover;

a locking member movably mounted at the terminal body and having a first locking leg,
the first locking leg adapted to engage the at least one latching member to lock the battery
cover to the terminal body or release the battery cover from the terminal body;

a first elastic member coupled between the first locking leg and at least one support
member, the elastic member being biased toward the first locking leg,

wherein the first locking leg and the at least one latching member are formed in such a
manner to push the battery cover away from the terminal body in a releasing direction when the
first locking leg disengages the at least one latching member; and

a second locking leg and a second elastic member, the second elastic member coupled
between the second locking leg and the at least one support member and being biased toward
the second locking leg;

wherein at least one of the first and second locking legs has an inner surface that is
inclined at a certain angle so as to substantially match a curvature of a corresponding outer
surface of the at least one latching member;

wherein the first and second locking legs linearly move closer to each other in a width
direction of the battery cover against the bias of the at least one of the first and second elastic
members to allow disengagement of the at least one latching member when an external force is
applied to the locking member.

26. (Currently amended) The terminal of claim 25, wherein the locking member is mounted at the terminal body to be linearly movable in a width direction, and has a spring for restoring the locking member to an original state.

27. (Currently amended) The terminal of claim 25, wherein the locking member is constructed as one pair facing each other in a width direction of the terminal body, and a spring is arranged between the pair of locking members.

28. (Currently amended) The terminal of claim 25, wherein the at least one latching member has a portion locked by the first locking leg at one side thereof, and has an inclination surface contacting the second locking leg and slide-movable at another side thereof.

29. (Currently amended) The terminal of claim 28, wherein the second locking leg has an inner surface having an the same inclination surface ~~same~~ as an inclination surface of another side of the at least one latching member.

30-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently amended) A locking mechanism comprising:
at least one latching member formed at a cover of a battery;
a locking member movably mounted at a main body and having a first locking leg, the first locking leg adapted to engage the at least one latching member to lock the cover of the battery to the main body or release the cover of the battery from the main body; ~~and~~
a first elastic member coupled between the first locking leg and at least one support member, the elastic member being biased toward the first locking leg,

wherein the first locking leg and the at least one latching member are formed in such a manner to push the cover of the battery away from the main body in a releasing direction when the first locking leg disengages the at least one latching member; and

a second locking leg and a second elastic member, the second elastic member coupled between the second locking leg and the at least one support member and being biased toward the second locking leg;

wherein at least one of the first and second locking legs has an inner surface that is inclined at a certain angle so as to substantially match a curvature of a corresponding outer surface of the at least one latching member;

wherein the first and second locking legs linearly move closer to each other in a width direction of the cover of the battery against the bias of the at least one of the first and second elastic members to allow disengagement of the at least one latching member when an external force is applied to the locking member.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) The locking mechanism of claim 36, wherein the main body is a mobile communication terminal.

41. (Currently amended) The locking mechanism of claim ~~39~~36, wherein the locking member comprises a user grip knob disposed at no less than one of the first and second locking legs to allow a user to linearly move the first and second locking legs closer to each other against the bias of the at least one of the first and second elastic members to disengage the cover of the battery from the main body in the releasing direction.

42. (Currently amended) The locking mechanism of claim ~~39~~36, wherein the locking member comprises a pair of opposed rack gears with each rack gear extending from each of the first and second locking legs, and a pinion gear rotatably engaged to mesh with the rack gears to allow the first and second locking legs to linearly move with respect to each other in the width direction to disengage the cover of the battery from the main body in the releasing direction.